

REMARKS

Status of Prosecution

Applicant filed the original application on June 20, 2003. The Examiner entered a telephonic restriction, with traverse, and limited examination of the Application to claims 1-22. The Examiner thereafter mailed a first, non-final office action on February 23, 2004 (“First Office Action”). Applicant filed a Reply on March 19, 2004 (“First Reply of Applicant”). In response, the Examiner entered a Final Office Action on May 6, 2004 (“Final Office Action”). This paper is in Reply to the Final Office Action.

Restriction Requirement

As stated, claims 23-31 were withdrawn from examination by restriction, with traverse. The Examiner stated in the Final Office Action, page 10, lines 1-3, that a complete reply to the Final Office Action must include cancellation of non-elected claims as provided in MPEP §821.01. In reply, Applicant files this Reply to Office Action 02, which includes a Listing of Claims indicating that claims 23-31 have been cancelled. Applicant reserves, however, the right to file a divisional application in connection with the non-elected claims following receipt of a notice of allowability for claims 1-22.

Examiner’s General Objections and Rejections

Claims 1-22 are pending. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-22.

The bases for the Examiner’s rejection of the claims were the same as argued by the Examiner in First Office Action.

Accordingly, in reply to the Final Office Action, Applicant adopts and incorporates by references the arguments of Applicant set forth in Applicant’s First Reply of Applicant.

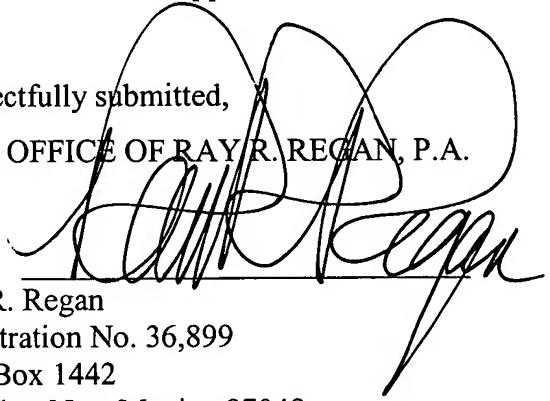
Conclusions

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-22.

The remaining references cited by the Examiner, but not relied on for the rejection of claims 1-22, have been noted. Because the remaining references are no more pertinent than the applied references, a detailed discussion of these remaining references is deemed unnecessary for a full and complete Reply to the Office Action.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully asserts claims 1-22 are patentable for the reasons set forth above and in First Reply of Applicant, and that the Application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests an early notice of allowance. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (505) 897-7200 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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